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Teen killed as car crashes into tree

ACCIDENT A 19-year-old male was killed after his vehicle struck a tree yesterday morning.

Paramedics said just before 7:45 a.m., a driver lost control of his vehicle on the 700 block of Kerwin Road. Paramedics said the man was trapped inside his heavily damaged car and had to be treated for life-threatening head injuries while firefighters worked to extricate him. He was alone in the vehicle.

Shortly after being extricated, the driver lost all vital signs. Paramedics attempted resuscitation but pronounced him dead at the scene.

Alcohol was not a factor, police said.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Federal Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq laughs yesterday as she shakes hands with chief public health officer Dr. David Butler-Jones. Aglukkaq announced that Canada has approved an H1N1 flu vaccine.

Vaccine approved

Ottawa Public Health to get 1st shipment of H1N1 shots this week

TRACEY TONG
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Ottawa residents who need it most can get their pandemic H1N1 flu vaccines at city clinics as early as Monday.

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) announced yesterday that the city receives its first shipment of the H1N1 vaccine this week, after the federal government approved the vaccine for use in Canada earlier in the day.

Canadian clinical trials of the vaccine are still underway, but the federal regulator was satisfied enough with the results of thousands of clinical trials in Europe to approve the drug in Canada.

"This authorization was arrived at independently and on the basis of sound health science," said Dr. Elwyn Griffiths, head of the section of Health Canada that regulates vaccines.

Canada's chief public health officer Dr. David Butler-Jones said tests have shown people are more than 90 per cent immune to H1N1 after a single shot.

"We now have a safe and effective vaccine being distributed to provinces and territories that they will be rolling out in a matter of days," said federal Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq.

"With 37,000 doses arriving in Ottawa by the end of the week, and another shipment of a similar amount of material expected early next week, that's enough vaccine for Ottawa Public Health to begin providing free pandemic flu vaccinations at citywide clinics to Ottawa residents who need it the most beginning on Monday, Oct. 26," said Ottawa medical officer of health Dr. Isra Levy.

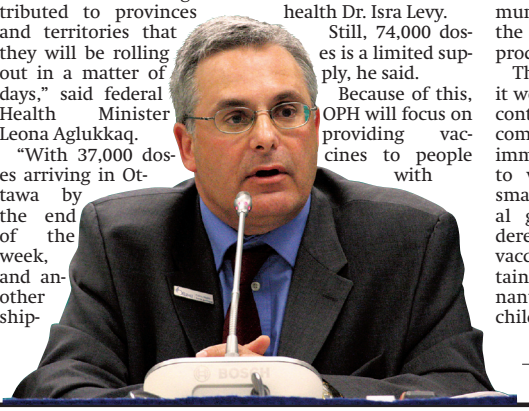
Still, 74,000 doses is a limited supply, he said.

Because of this, OPH will focus on providing vaccines to people with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, healthy children between six months and five years old and health-care workers at five fixed vaccination sites across the city.

The federal government aims to ship about three million doses a week for Canada's largest-ever immunization campaign as the vaccine rolls off the production line.

Though it originally said it would only buy vaccines containing adjuvants — or compounds that boost the immune system's response to vaccine, allowing for smaller doses — the federal government later ordered 1.8 million doses of vaccine that does not contain adjuvants for pregnant women and young children.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS



Dr. Isra Levy

Light rail system to Ottawa confirmed

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

TRANSIT Ever since planning for the city's new rapid transit network began, it was assumed it would be a light rail system.

That notion was confirmed yesterday in a report to the city's transit committee that compared light rail and light metro.

Light metro uses bigger trains and requires total segregation from other vehicular traffic like the SkyTrain used in Vancouver.

Light rail trains are smaller and can run on tracks beside roadways, like the CTrain in Calgary.

"I felt that it was very important for us to not kick the tires, but certainly to kick the wheels to make sure that it was the right solution," deputy city manager Nancy Schepers told the committee.

With the ability to run on mixed-use roads as well as the Transitway, a light rail system would have less impact on the urban fabric and would be flexible enough to accommodate the high volume traffic downtown, Schepers said.

The report also concluded the total system cost would be lower for LRT than light metro, based on the extremely high price tag required to segregate light metro.

Projections

- The city has said it will update the latest financial projections of the project tomorrow.

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Relating pg 12

Playing dress-up can be sexy

SmallBusiness

Metro's series on Small Business Week will explore current issues affecting small businesses as well as profile successful small business owners. **See page 14 for more.**

On the web

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Local

Girl hospitalized after being hit by vehicle

An 11-year-old girl suffered a fractured leg and facial injuries after being struck by a vehicle in the city's east end yesterday morning. Ottawa paramedics said the girl, who was making her way to school at the time of the incident, was struck in the 2000 block of St. Laurent Blvd. at around 7:17 a.m. She was conscious when paramedics arrived and was taken to hospital, where she is in serious but stable condition. Police are investigating. METRO OTTAWA

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

metronews.ca What's online today.

Video Preparations begin for the start of the Olympic torch relay in Greece at **metronews.ca/canada**

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Ontario 49: 4, 10, 18, 29, 41 & 48. Bonus 7
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Cliff plant closed indefinitely after blast

Gatineau heating, cooling facility feeding buildings normally served by site

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

A boiler explosion that killed a 51-year-old engineer and injured two other workers Monday has shut down a heating and cooling plant for an indefinite amount of time.

The Cliff plant, which serves 54 buildings in the downtown core, is shut down and the department is co-operating with the Ontario Fire Marshal, Technical Standards and Safety Authority, the Ontario Ministry of Labour, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and the Department of Health and Safety for the investigation, said Pierre Vaillancourt, regional director of professional and technical services of Public Works.

It is too early to come up with a timeframe of when the Cliff heating and cooling plant will reopen, he said. The 18 people who work at the plant have been reassigned to other locations.

The extent of damage to the plant is unknown, he said.

In the meantime, the buildings normally served by the plant — "which include many parliamentary buildings and 240 Sparks, are fed by our heating and cooling plant at 45 Sacre Coeur in Gatineau," Vaillancourt said. "Temperature and hot water supply in all affected facilities are being closely monitored to ensure occupant safety and well-being. The department is also taking measures to conserve heat such as leaving lights on and reducing the amount of outside air in buildings until full heating is restored," he said.

Inspections

- Vaillancourt said all boilers are inspected on an annual basis by independent inspectors and that all operators are certified and licensed to operate these boilers.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Public Works' Pierre Vaillancourt said the Cliff plant, the site of a boiler explosion Monday, will be closed for an indefinite amount of time.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DEPRESSION RESEARCH

Psychiatrists at the Ottawa Psychopharmacology Clinic are currently conducting a research study of a medication for depression. The purpose of the study is to further our knowledge about the possible treatment of depression. Treatment duration is initially 8 weeks with possible continuation of up to 46 weeks in total. Included are a physical exam, blood tests and a psychiatric interview. All information provided will be treated in strictest confidence. To volunteer, you must be 18-70 of age, not currently in psychiatric treatment (unless you are being referred by your treating doctor), have no significant drug or alcohol problems and be in generally good physical health.

	YES	NO
I am feeling sad and depressed.	■	■
I am having difficulty sleeping.	■	■
I am feeling low in energy and slowed down.	■	■
My appetite has changed.	■	■
I am experiencing feelings of guilt.	■	■
I have lost interest in work and pleasurable activities.	■	■
I feel hopeless about the future.	■	■
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4 local

Death at care facility deemed suspicious
Ottawa police are investigating the suspicious death of an 88-year-old man at the Peter D. Clark long-term care home in the Centrepointe area. METRO OTTAWA

'Picasso's grandmother'

Retrospective of artist Odjig's work set to open

A woman who artist Norval Morrisseau dubbed "Picasso's grandmother" will be the first First Nations female artist to have a solo show at the National Gallery of Canada.

The Drawings and Paintings of Daphne Odjig: A Retrospective Exhibition — featuring 56 works spanning 44 years of Odjig's artistic production — is one of two exhibits to open at the gallery tomorrow.

The other, Miller Brittain: When the Stars Threw Down Their Spears, provides insight into the emotion-filled works of the New Brunswick native.

While Odjig's exhibit includes examples of the 90-year-old's legend paintings, history murals, erotica, abstractions and landscapes, Brittain's work "explores the complexity of being human in desperate times," said NGC director Marc Mayer. Both exhibits run through Jan. 3.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Daphne Odjig is the first First Nations female artist to have a solo exhibit at the National Gallery of Canada. The Drawings and Paintings of Daphne Odjig opens tomorrow.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

News in brief

THEFT Robbers broke into a west-end Canadian Tire store Sunday morning, stealing guns and ammunition. Seven replica semi-automatic style pellet guns and various types of ammunition, consisting of numerous boxes of pellets, 12-gauge shotgun shells and .22-calibre ammunition were stolen from the Greenbank Road store.

METRO OTTAWA

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U.S. eyes Canadian vaccine surplus jealously

The relative abundance of H1N1 vaccine in Canada is attracting jealous looks from south of the border, where health officials face a shortage of shots. U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) says the shortage is a result, in part, of countries such as Canada choosing to make their own populations a priority. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Loonie volatility worrisome: Flaherty

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty says he's worried about the volatility of the Canadian dollar but does not see it as a sufficient threat to his policy of not raising taxes. The finance minister said yesterday he agreed with Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney's views and approach in dealing with the surging loonie. On Tuesday, Carney said the dollar was harming the economy and hinted strongly that he was prepared to keep the bank's policy interest rate at the historic low of 0.25 per cent until at least next summer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dispute rages over Canadians' torture

REPORT A dispute rages over secret portions of an inquiry report on the overseas torture of three Canadians one year after release of the document, which criticizes the actions of security agencies.

Federal and commission lawyers are still squabbling about portions of the 544-page report the government balked at making public, citing national security concerns.

In his report released one year ago yesterday, former Supreme Court justice Frank Iacobucci found Canadian officials contributed to the torture of Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad El Maati and Muayyed Nureddin by sharing information — including unfounded accounts — with foreign agencies.

The three men, all of whom deny involvement in terrorism, were abused in grave-like Syrian prison cells. El Maati was tortured by Egyptian captors as well.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. eyes NAFTA side deals

TRADE The United States has no immediate plans to reopen NAFTA but may look at side deals related to labour and the environment, America's new ambassador to Canada affirmed yesterday.

David Jacobson told a business audience that U.S. President Barack Obama was a "strong believer" in free trade.

He added, however, that his country may look at "side letters" related to labour, and that he expects such agreements would benefit all three countries.

"Fundamentally our view of NAFTA is that it is working very well." he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rethinking deal

- Obama talked about re-opening the trade deal while campaigning during the Democratic primaries.

JIMMY JEONG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Edmonton Tactical get ready yesterday near the Workers' Compensation Board in Edmonton after reports said a man with a gun had hostages in the building. About 700 employees were evacuated. The man later surrendered peacefully to police.

Standoff ends peacefully

Gunman surrenders after taking hostages in Edmonton building

A day-long hostage-taking that started with hundreds of office workers fleeing a disgruntled gunman ended peacefully yesterday evening with no injuries.

About 10 hours after the drama at the Workers' Compensation Board began, Edmonton police spokesman Dean Parthenis announced the armed man had surrendered without incident.

"All hostages were unharmed," said Parthenis.

As officers started taking down barricades that had closed off a wide swath of the downtown near the Alberta legislature for most of the day, Insp. Terry Rochhio told reporters at the scene that eight people in all had been held.

Rochhio would not release the gunman's name or age, but described him as a disgruntled client who simply wanted a chance to tell his story.

Police negotiators convinced the man to let the hostages go one by one throughout the day, with the last one being set free just half an hour before the gunman gave himself up.

The incident began when the man, armed with a rifle, charged into the WCB offices on the eighth floor about 8:45 a.m.

Police moved in and initiated negotiations with the gunman.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man overcome by stress: Friend

- The man had been injured on the job — he worked in the concrete industry — but had been cut off benefits. His friend, Don Bellerose, said stress piled upon stress, leading him to threaten to jump off a bridge into the North Saskatchewan River.
- Bellerose said the man sent a text message to one of the nurses at the facility saying he was going to settle a score with the WCB yesterday morning, but nobody suspected it would go so far.

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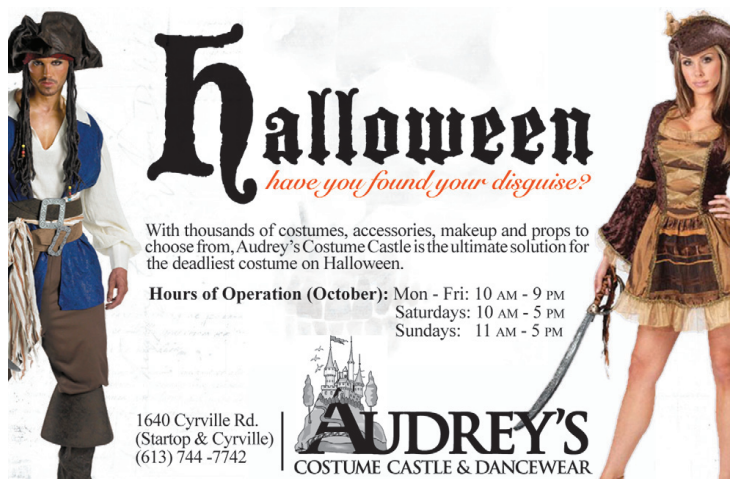
News in brief

CELL BAN The B.C. government has introduced legislation to ban B.C. drivers from chatting on cellphones while they're behind the wheel. Six other provinces already have such legislation in place. The B.C. government promised in its throne speech last August to restrict cellphone use while driving.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Woman charged with killing children attempted suicide
A Quebec woman charged with killing her three children tried to commit suicide earlier this year while awaiting her trial. A judge released the news after making sure jurors considering Cathie Gauthier's fate won't hear it. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Probe mob' furor explodes in Quebec

Pressure is mounting on the Quebec government to call a public inquiry into ties between politicians, construction companies and organized crime.

Opposition parties tabled a motion in the provincial legislature yesterday demanding a probe.

The furor follows incendiary reports of the Italian Mafia and construction companies colluding to drive up the price tag on public-works projects.

Premier Jean Charest fended off accusations from his opponents who demanded to know why he'd resist such a demand.

"Why are you in politics?"
Pauline Marois asks Jean Charest

"Why are you in politics?" opposition leader Pauline Marois asked him.

"Why is the premier in politics? To serve his own interests or to serve the people of Quebec?"

Charest shot back that Marois was lowering the level of debate.

He said he'd let the police investigate before making any decisions about a probe.

"There are investigations — and I'm using the plural here — that have been going on for quite some time," Charest replied.

"We need to give police the chance to do their job."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ETHICS Tory Senator Leo Housakos, embroiled in an ethics controversy over a stimulus contract, is accusing one of his own caucus members of trying to trip him up. Housakos blamed his troubles on "somebody in my own caucus," and said, "I'm going to take care of him soon," a Montreal newspaper reports. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stand by, folks, for a fragile recovery, says upbeat Harper

ECONOMY Prime Minister Stephen Harper trumpeted his economic strategy during an address to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, saying the country is headed for a fragile recovery.

Harper says he's optimistic but not overconfident about the recovery, since Canada's situation is in part dependent on the United States.

For the immediate future, Harper says, the focus has to continue to be about stimulating the economy.

The prime minister also says he has no regrets about posting deficits, arguing it was the best move under the circumstances.

Some of the measures that led to the deficit, he says, have allowed the government to lay the groundwork for future growth.

Harper was taking part in a question-and-answer session at an economic conference in Toronto put on by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

World-beater Meg dies – at 113

CENTENARIAN Margaret Fitzgerald, a New Brunswick woman described by her family as the oldest known person in Canada, has died at the age of 113.

Fitzgerald, who had celebrated her birthday last month, died of natural causes at the Villa du Repos nursing home in Moncton.

According to Guinness World Records, she was believed to be among the 15 oldest people on Earth.

Her nephew, Reg King, said he remembers her as a hard worker who often thought about her days on a farm in Tankville, north of Moncton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ShareYourViews
ottawaletters@metronews.ca

Man admits to killing Mountie

A man charged in the shooting death of a Mountie in the Northwest Territories admitted in court he killed him, but said it was unintentional. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dispute over dog headed to court

Earl Shadbolt never imagined he'd be battling in small-claims court for possession of his beloved pooch Willie, but with a former friend threatening to auction the terrier off, legal action was his final option.

TIM KROCHAK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Earl Shadbolt displays a leash and dog cushion awaiting his pet in his Eastern Passage, N.S., home last week. Shadbolt is waging a legal fight to get his dog, Willie, back.

The 75-year-old retiree left the alert cross-breed with Laura Naugler, who he'd come to know at a Baptist Church they both attend, after a fire in April damaged his home near the mouth of Halifax harbour.

Naugler declined to return the dog in August after repairs were completed to Shadbolt's home.

Shadbolt said Naugler later told him she expected to be paid for keeping Willie at her home.

"I made her an offer and she didn't accept it," he said yesterday, adding he will not discuss figures.

"I've exhausted every other avenue to try and get the dog back, and I was just about to give up and somebody mentioned the cheapest route is to go to small-claims court."

He said he got a lawyer after a notice appeared last week saying the dog would be auctioned off by Naugler under provisions of the province's Warehousemen's Lien Act — a law more often used by garage owners who sell cars if repair bills aren't paid.

Shadbolt said that shocked him into realizing he might never see Willie again.

"Everyone loves him around here," he said. "The kids in the neighbourhood love him and we want him back."

Earlier this week, Shadbolt's lawyer, Ritchie Wheeler, said he was hoping for a negotiated out-of-court settlement with Naugler. Yesterday, though, Wheeler said "we're gearing up and preparing to proceed with the litigation, which is scheduled for Nov. 10."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

PROBE The Bloc Québécois has blocked a proposed wide-ranging investigation by MPs into the handling of Taliban prisoners by Canadian soldiers, but says questions about possible torture will be pursued on another front. Liberal defence critic Ujjal Dosanjh tabled a motion before the Commons defence committee to probe allegations that captured fighters were handed over to known torturers in the Afghan prison system.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nurse says she didn't consider doc's note on N.S. man an order

TASER DEATH The nurse who admitted a man to a Nova Scotia jail where he later died knew about a doctor's note requiring the inmate to receive a psychiatric exam, but the nurse told an inquiry yesterday she didn't consider it an official physician's order.

Sandra McLeod was the nurse in charge at the Central Nova Scotia Correctional Facility when Howard Hyde — under arrest for an alleged assault — was dropped off there by deputy sheriffs on Nov. 21, 2007.

Hyde, a 45-year-old musician with a long history of mental illness and run-ins with the law, died the next morning as he struggled with guards, yelling there were "demons" in the jail.

McLeod told the inquiry she knew Hyde had not refilled his prescription for an anti-psychotic drug for about four months, and that he had been Tasered by police after his arrest and later sent to a hospital for treatment.

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U.S. to force executive pay cuts for bailout companies: Source
The Obama administration plans to order companies that received huge U.S. government bailouts last year to sharply cut the compensation of their highest paid executives, according to a person familiar with the decision. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

White wine worse for teeth than red: Study

White wine can eat into your tooth enamel worse than red, a new German study finds. And that damage can go on to increase the stains left by coffee, tea and red wine, according to researchers writing in Nutrition Research. Dentists have long warned of the corrosive effects of high-acid foods such as citrus fruits and white wine. Luckily, the fix is easy: a piece of cheese with the wine counters the acid effect with its calcium, the research said. In fact, eating while drinking white wine helps in general. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hoax exposes pitfalls of instant journalism

You attend a press conference. The newsmaker speaks. You run a DNA test to confirm they are who they claim to be. Then you publish.

An absurd notion, but only marginally more absurd than the high comedy that played out at Washington's National Press Club Monday, when the U.S. Chamber of Commerce made big news that wasn't.

Already in the news for its hard-lobbying opposition to U.S. climate-change legislation, the pro-business Chamber dropped reporters' jaws with what appeared to be a turning-point announcement — the organization now accepts that "without a stable climate, there will be no business."

The dramatic reversal was conveyed instantly, led by Reuters. Minutes later it was picked up by the New York Times and Washington Post websites.

But by the time Fox jumped in, the real U.S. Chamber of Commerce burst into the news conference, together with red-faced representatives of the National Press Club, to debunk the proceedings as a hoax. Reporters' heads swung from the possible interlopers at the podium to the possible interlopers who were calling them out — who was legitimate? For a few minutes both sides stood their ground.

Finally, the ruse was revealed — the man purportedly speaking on behalf of America's largest business lobby was in fact Andy Bichlbaum of the anti-corporate pranksters known as the Yes Men. The real Chamber is angry and the Press Club is embarrassed at how easily the acceptance of a $500 room rental fee exposed a major vulnerability to guerrilla-style activism. The media got a cardinal lesson in the dangers of the tweet-first-ask-questions-later pace of modern news.

"This really brings home the reality that in the 24-hour news cycle you've got to be suspicious of just about everything until you confirm it," said media expert Robert Thompson, director of the Bleier Centre for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University.

Coming less than a week after the Balloon Boy saga devolved from real-life fairy tale to actual fairy tale, Thompson and others observe that the Press Club saga has played out differently. Unlike the Colorado family that now is hiding from reporters, the Yes Men are revelling in the aftermath. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tea, lamb and arm-twisting for Karzai

ELECTION Afghan President Hamid Karzai needed high-level American arm-twisting over several tense days — and meals that included "gallons of tea" and endless platters of lamb — before he finally agreed to a run-off vote in the country's fraud-plagued presidential election. A senior U.S. official briefed on the meetings by Sen. John Kerry gave The Associated Press details of the negotiations with Karzai.

The talks lasted late into several nights, continued through endless meals and went on for hours each day.

During an extended stroll, the official said, Kerry opened up to Karzai, telling him about his own difficult decision not to challenge the vote count in Ohio on election night in 2004, when there were allegations of voting irregularities in favour of George W. Bush. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Share the power?

- The U.S. would be receptive to a power-sharing arrangement between Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his election challenger if they agreed to it, Obama administration officials said yesterday. Karzai and former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah have settled on a Nov. 7 runoff.

On the web

- Alan Sailer is a double shooter: Blasting objects with a gun while photographing the moment. Interview and photos at **metronews.ca/world**

India **Ladies only**

SUCHETA DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indian women travel in a Ladies Special train near Calcutta yesterday. Eight women-only trains were introduced in four cities recently aimed at providing safety to working women in a country where violence against women has been on the rise.

Women's carriage hit as trains collide

INDIA A passenger train crashed into another train's rear carriage reserved for women and disabled passengers, killing 22 people and injuring 16 who remained trapped for hours yesterday near the Taj Mahal in India, police said. Rescuers recovered 19 bodies during a rescue operation that lasted nearly seven hours, said Rajesh Dikshit, a police spokesman. Three of the 19 injured people died in hospital, Dikshit said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

BRITAIN A Briton who could possibly be the world's fattest man is due to go under the knife in an attempt to cut his weight, The Sun newspaper reported yesterday. The tabloid said that 48-year-old Paul Mason weighs nearly 1,000 pounds, or 450 kilograms, which it claimed made him the world's heaviest man.

COSTA RICA Costa Rican authorities say they have granted refugee status to a former Venezuelan state governor who broke with President Hugo Chavez and faces what he describes as politically motivated corruption charges in his home country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Global pirate attacks surge
Pirate attacks worldwide in the first nine months of 2009 exceeded all of last year's total, an international maritime watchdog said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A-Twitter about the Berlin wall

Virtual, styrofoam walls mark 20th anniversary of divider's tumble

The Berlin Wall is gone, but people can still tag their memories on it online.

The Berlin Twitter Wall, which went online Tuesday, encourages people to share their memories of the wall's collapse and hopes for the future on a scrolling wall using Twitter, the social networking site.

By yesterday, there were more than 100 comments in Spanish, English, German and French. Some said they were too young to remember the fall of the Berlin Wall on Nov. 9, 1989.

East Germany began construction of the barrier Aug. 13, 1961, in an attempt to stop the dramatic flight of people to the West.

The website berlintwitter wall.com scrolls messages along a backdrop of the East Side Gallery, a famous stretch of the wall still standing and painted with murals. Visitors can also see pictures of the Domino Wall, about 1,000 pieces of 2.5-metre-tall styrofoam painted with messages of peace by students, celebrities and politicians. The Domino Wall will snake nearly two kilometres along the old wall line and be toppled at celebrations Nov. 9.

The online wall is part of events organized by Berlin to help mark the anniversary of the event that paved the way for a reunited Germany and Europe, and an end to the Cold War.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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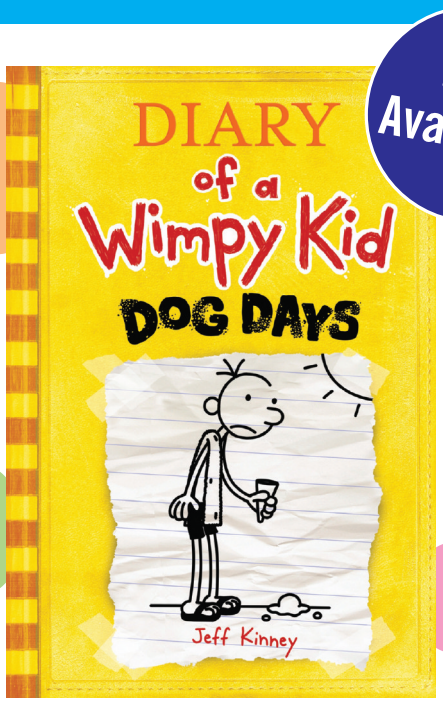

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Ecuador **Student protests erupt**

DOLORES OCHOA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

University students clash with police outside the government palace in Quito, Ecuador yesterday. University students are protesting a proposed law that would establish more state control over public universities and controls over private institutions.

Fossil Ida not even a monkey's uncle

EVOLUTION Remember Ida, the fossil discovery announced last May with its own book and TV documentary? A publicity blitz called it "the link" that would reveal the earliest evolutionary roots of monkeys and humans. Experts protested that Ida wasn't even a close relative.

And now a new analysis supports their reaction. Scientists compared 360 specific anatomical features of 117 living and extinct primate species to draw up a family tree. They report the results in today's issue of the journal Nature. Ida is a skeleton of a 47 million-year-old cat-sized creature found in Germany. It confirms what most scientists think, said David Begun, a paleoanthropologist at the University of Toronto.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

FRANCE Armed assailants stormed a supermarket outside Paris before it opened yesterday and held six hostages for several hours before the standoff was resolved peacefully. All six were later released unharmed, apparently after successful police negotiations, he said. A police official said that suspects demanded money from the store's safe and cash registers and also threatened the hostages. Two suspects turned themselves in and were taken into custody.

U.S. Megan Williams' shocking accusations initially strained the imagination: Seven white people beat her with sticks, forced her to eat feces, raped her and taunted her with racial slurs over several days in a ramshackle trailer in West Virginia. But the suspects eventually confessed to their actions and pleaded guilty. All but one were sent to prison. Now Williams, who is black, is taking it all back. Williams lied in 2007 because she wanted to get back at a boyfriend who had beaten her, her attorney, Byron L. Potts, said yesterday. Seven white men and women were convicted in the case. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Death toll in American Samoa climbs

The official count of the number of people killed in American Samoa in the Sept. 29 tsunami has risen by two to 34. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

B.K. BANGASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People who fled Waziristan due to fierce fighting between security forces and militants, wait to be registered at a camp for the internally displaced in Dera Ismail Khan yesterday in Pakistan. Pakistani troops and the Taliban fought fierce battles in Waziristan, a militant sanctuary near the Afghan border in an operation that started on Saturday, with both sides claiming early victories in an army campaign that could shape the future of the country's battle against extremism.

Afghan narcotics flow posing global problem

The smuggling of Afghan opiates is fuelling addiction and drug use along trafficking routes from Iran to Central Asia as well as spreading diseases and funding insurgents, the UN warned yesterday.

Iran, Pakistan and Central Asian nations are among the most affected states but the negative impact of the multibillion-dollar Afghan narcotics flow is felt around the world as it continues to spread, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime said in a new report.

"The Afghan opiate trade fuels consumption and addiction in countries along drug trafficking routes before reaching the main consumer markets in Europe (estimated at 3.1 million heroin users), contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases," the report said.

$160M Between 2005 and 2008, Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan drew between $90 million and $160 million annually from taxes and levies on opium farmers and drug traffickers, the UN estimates.

The illegal trade has also given a financial boost to Central Asian extremists that could further destabilize the area, UNODC chief Antonio Maria Costa warned in remarks accompanying the report.

"The Silk Route, turned into a heroin route, is carving out a path of death and violence through one of the world's most strategic yet volatile regions," Costa said.

While Central Asian countries such as Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are the main trafficking route for Afghan heroin into Russia, they also have growing domestic markets, the report warned.

In Iran, about 14 tons of Afghan heroin and a staggering 450 tons of opium were consumed locally in 2008, the report said, making it the world's biggest consumer of the drug.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. store clerk accused of stealing winning lotto ticket then fleeing country

THEFT A convenience store clerk in Texas pocketed a customer's $1 million winning lottery ticket, claimed the prize and left town, possibly back to his native Nepal, authorities said.

Pankaj Joshi, 25, took 67-year-old Willis Willis' winning ticket after Willis asked Joshi in May to check whether any of his numbers were winners, investigators said in a search warrant affidavit last month. Joshi claimed the prize, had the money wired to a bank account and disappeared, authorities said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

TRIAL Naveed Haq wasn't insane — just angry — when he stormed a Seattle Jewish centre in 2006, killing one woman and wounding five others as he railed against Israel and demanded to go on CNN, a prosecutor said yesterday, as Haq's second trial opened.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Check your inhibitions

In the movie Mean Girls, Lindsay Lohan's character Cady sagely observes, "Halloween is the one night a year when girls can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say anything about it."

Dressing provocatively on Halloween without fear of judgment is part of the beauty of the holiday. Temporarily transforming into someone else makes it easy for us to check our inhibitions at the door; something we do too infrequently on the other 364 days of the year. With its magical combination of alcohol, bare flesh and a boisterous sense of camaraderie, Halloween is basically Sex Christmas.

"Everyone wants to be sexy," says Yoann Hurlault, who works at Seduction Love Boutique in Toronto. "You don't have to be ugly for Halloween, right?"

Boosting their usual inventory of boas, hosiery, fetish gear and sex toys is a full wall of Halloween costumes. Hurlault shows off a few of his favourites, including the classic sexy nurse, a frilly French Maid and a female Indiana Jones onesie with the approximate dimensions of a Hooters Girl uniform.

"Many of our costumes are inspired by successful movies, like Harry Potter or Pirates of the Caribbean," Hurlault says. "It allows people to become those heroes for a night."

An Amy Winehouse costume.

No wonder Halloween parties are hook-up central. There's something oddly freeing about dressing up as someone else for one night — especially if it's a character whose personality traits one can appropriate. This allows people to act more boldly than they normally would. If you're chatting up a hot German beer wench at a Halloween party and she walks away, no biggie. Fräulein didn't reject you. She rejected Superman!

If you're a wallflower who normally tucks themselves into a comfortable sphere of familiarity at social gatherings, Halloween is an exception. Costumes are instant conversation starters and strangers are much more likely to interact at bars, parties and even on the street when they have a visual common bond ("Hey, you like Twilight? I like Twilight! Let's make out!").

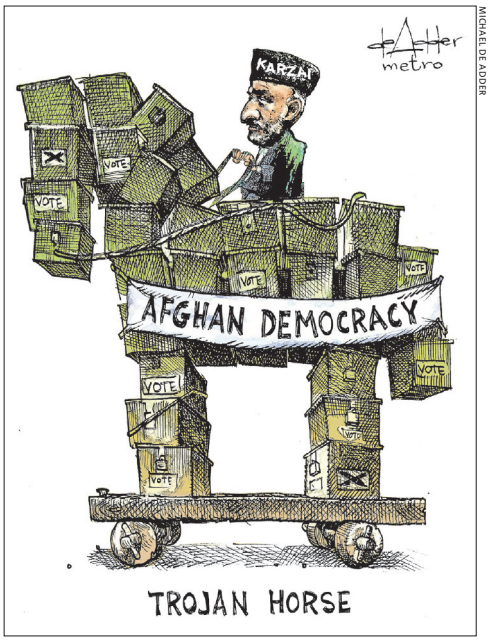
If you want to look seductive but are worried that you'll be one of a dozen black cats on the prowl at the party you're attending, you can always put your own spin on sexy. My friend Joan once dressed up as Sexy Kim Jong Il. Jezebel.com also has some recommendations, including Sexy Antarctica, Sexy Bottom of Purse Lifesaver and Sexy Bag of Burnt Microwave Popcorn.

Hotness.

On the web

- For more views on relating, go to Love Bytes at metronews.ca/blogs

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Building more opportunities for boys

Many of us have spent decades trying to address the barriers to women in education and in business. And in spite of the progress, there is more to be done.

At the same time, the gender gap cuts both ways. Boys are less likely than girls to meet provincial standards in reading. Boys account for the majority of suspensions. And boys are more likely than girls to drop out of high school in Canada (12.2 per cent versus 7.2 per cent in 2004-05).

On a national level, the social economic status of a school is the strongest predictor of reading performance, followed by the social economic status of the student followed by gender, according to a 2000 OECD study. This suggests that boys, regardless of their background, do better in well-resourced schools, reinforcing the importance of investment in education.

The costs to all Canadians of educational underperformance are immense. In 2004, the unemployment rate among people aged 25 to 44 who did not have a high school diploma was 12.2 per cent, almost twice the rate of high school graduates.

In a bold move announced this week, the Toronto District School Board's new director Chris Spence announced a strategy that includes a "Male Leadership Academy" for boys as well as male-friendly demonstration classrooms aimed at boosting boys' school performance.

Research by the Canadian Centre for Knowledge Mobilization in B.C. concluded that, overall, studies tend to show that single-sex schools serve girls better than boys. However, the majority of studies examine private schools dominated by students from wealthy well-educated families. We also know there are too few male role models in the early grades.

An excellent teacher can inspire any kid to love Shakespeare, but boys and girls do have different preferences. Same-sex classes in particular subjects allow gender specific content and teaching methods.

Spence is drawing on his previous successes in the development of Boys 2 Men, Project G.O. (Girls Only) and the Read to Succeed Program, which motivates and teaches boys to read. While we should heed cautions against segregating and fragmenting our schools, and we need rigorous evaluation and accountability, we do need to try new approaches to adapt the curriculum, teaching methods and learning environment to the particular needs of boys and girls.

Wendy Cukier is the associate dean of the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University, and the founder of Ryerson's Diversity Institute.

Worth mentioning

Decision gives Kuwaiti women more freedom

Kuwait's highest court granted women the right to obtain a passport without their husband's approval, the case's lawyer said yesterday, in the latest stride for women's rights in this small oil-rich emirate.

Unlike with highly conservative neighbours such as Saudi Arabia, women in Kuwait can vote, serve in parliament and drive — and now can obtain their own passports.

In many countries in the region, women cannot travel or obtain a passport without the consent of their male guardian.

Attorney Adel Qurban, whose case the court was ruling on, said the landmark decision "freed" Kuwaiti women from the 1962 law requiring their husband's signature to obtain a passport.

His client, Fatima al-Baghli, is one of thousands of women who have been petitioning courts for this right.

The court found the article in the decades-old law "unconstitutional" because it goes against the principal of equal rights for men and women.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More can be done

- Activist Aisha al-Rsheid hailed Tuesday's ruling, but said females in this traditional male-dominated society were still a long way from the equality promised by the 1962 constitution.

We Know What You're Thinking

49% The number of Canadian women who admit to having been dishonest to their husbands about spending.

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BlackBerry Bold ditches trackball for touchpad
Looking for an edge in its battle with Apple's seductive iPhone, Research In Motion has updated the high-end BlackBerry Bold, replacing the trackball — which has caused headaches for some users — with a touchpad. The new Bold 9700 was released yesterday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Invest in tech: Microsoft CEO

Microsoft Corp. chief executive Steve Ballmer has advice for Canada's businesses: be careful not to let a battered economy frightened you away from vigorously investing in tech sector innovation.

Ballmer told business leaders in a speech in Toronto yesterday that the technology industry must be focused on driving growth — and not just cutting costs — even as it deals with revenue declines.

"You cut costs because you have to and the money you have left you invest smartly for growth," the 53-year-old CEO of the software superpower told business executives at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. "Now is the time to make those bets that will drive innovation, that will drive your growth and growth in the economy."

Ballmer drew parallels between the Great Depression and the current economic crisis, saying that many successful business and technological innovations can be born during economic turmoil.

Since the dot-com bubble burst, telecom, software, hardware and other technology companies have cut jobs, streamlined operations or consolidated. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MICROSOFT CANADA CO.

Steve Ballmer, CEO of Microsoft Corp., talks to Canadian business leaders at an event in Toronto yesterday.

CRTC allows web traffic throttling under new rules

WEB Canada's big telecommunications firms can continue to throttle certain traffic on their Internet networks but will have to follow new and possibly strict rules, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission said yesterday.

In a much-awaited decision, the federal regulator established new conditions for how Internet service providers can manage traffic on their networks, but did not disallow the practice as some had demanded.

"Canada is the first country to develop and implement a comprehensive approach to Internet traffic management practices," commission chairman Konrad von Finckenstein said in a release.

The decision impacts all Internet providers, including Bell Canada Rogers and Telus Corp., even though not all have placed limits on traffic.

Telus spokesman Michael Hennessy, whose company has not resorted to throttling, said the CRTC did a good job in walking the line between those who want a completely unregulated Web environment and the possible need of some telecoms to manage traffic. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Business in brief

CREDIT An Ipsos Reid survey says Canadians are less likely to use credit cards to pay for home renovations than in 2008. The survey finds 76 per cent of respondents plan to pay for their improvements with cash or savings, up from just 70 per cent last year.

PENSION Canadian pensions continued to see growth from their investment holdings in the third quarter, although the improvement was more subdued than in the April-June period. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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In 1979, the branches of the Business Development Bank of Canada in British Columbia's Lower Fraser Valley pooled their resources to organize business management training sessions over a week called Small Business Week. BDC.CA

Small Business

Youth competition

The Business Development Bank of Canada is sponsoring an Internet-based national Aboriginal Youth Business Plan Competition for aboriginal youth in Grades 10-12. For more, go to bdc.ca/espirit/en/default.htm.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Holistic healing

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

Nova Scotia entrepreneur Catherine Whittaker, left, started Summerhurst Healing Retreat, which offers healing packages 75 kilometres north of Halifax, four years ago.

Selling relaxation can be a stressful business, says Nova Scotian entrepreneur Catherine Whittaker.

The reiki master and reflexologist started Summerhurt Healing Retreat four years ago as part of a move from working for a medical manufacturer toward offering holistic healing herself.

"I was really up for the challenge. I was just so passionate about what I did; the passion is what pushed me through. Had the logic kicked in, I don't know if I would have gone as far as I did," she says.

Summerhurst (summerhursthealing.com) offers full- and half-day "healing packages" at its tranquil rural setting 75 kilometres north of Halifax. Whittaker got it running with the help of a critical start-up financing loan from the Canadian Small Business Financing Program. It started life as Cozy Corner Sauna in Dartmouth, but after two years, Whittaker decided to go in a different direction. She consulted with her clients and created her healing getaway.

"I've had months that are like, 'Wow,' and months that are like, 'Oh my heavens, what am I doing?'" she says. "Most business owners will tell you — although they don't want you to print it — that they're doing it because they love it, not because of the money."

Self-employment has big benefits, too.

"You can think outside the box and not be shut down. The market can shut you down, but at least you can go ahead and try it," she laughs. "Market research only goes so far: You've got to have a vision and go for it."

Asked what advice she would have given herself four years ago, Whittaker thinks for a moment before deciding she wouldn't offer a word of warning.

"I learned so much about business and myself," she says. "Yeah, you do take a few extra turns along the road and it takes you much longer to get from point A to point B, but you have so much return when you get there.

"Had things worked out exactly as I was hoping in my business plan from day one, my business would be completely different and I think I would be bored to tears," Whittaker says.

"You have to keep moving and changing in order to grow."

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Women's 200-metre butterfly mark falls

Olympic champion Liu Zige wiped a stunning 1.6 seconds off the world record in the women's 200-metre butterfly at China's National Games yesterday. Liu was timed in two minutes 1.81 seconds, domestic news agency Xinhua reported, eclipsing the previous world mark of 2:03.41 set by Australian Jessicah Schipper. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Browns bitten by flu bug

Just when it couldn't get any worse for the woeful Cleveland Browns, it got worse. The team has been sacked by the flu. Yesterday, 12 players missed practice with flu-like symptoms as the team began installing the game plan for Sunday's matchup against the Green Bay Packers. Coach Eric Mangini scaled back the workout in hopes of keeping his healthy players from getting sick. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Officiating complaints par for the course

Spotlight currently on MLB umpire selections after a blown call for the ages in Yankees game

Another playoff series, another string of blown calls and another round of complaints about the quality of post-season officiating.

Right now the focus is on baseball, where three missed calls marred the Yankees' 10-1 win over the Angels Tuesday night. But in January it will be the NFL, and in the spring something will happen in the NBA or NHL playoffs to make fans and media question just how these officials got post-season jobs the first place.

So, how do they do it?

Like the teams, officials in Major League Baseball and other big-time pro sports have to qualify for the playoffs.

The NHL, NBA, NFL and MLB all separate the elite from the average by employing evaluators to grade every official on every play of the regular season. If you're an official in North American pro sports, Big Brother is watching.

All four leagues consider only the officials with the highest regular-season grades for post-season assignments with the most important variable being experience.

Baseball has no specific rule regarding experience but MLB spokesperson Mike Teevan said service time weighs heavily once discussions begin about which umpires will move on to the post-season.

Umpire Tim McClelland had worked in the majors for more than 26 years and officiated four World Series by the time he lined up at third base for Tuesday's Yankees-Angels game.

Still, when Nick Swisher tagged up on Johnny Damon's sacrifice fly, McClelland called him out for leaving third base early, even though replays show Swisher followed the rules. And when Angels catcher Mike Napoli appeared to tag out two Yankees runners who were standing near, but not on, third base, McClelland only caught half the play. After 26 years in the majors, McClelland missed Napoli tag Robinson Cano.

So much for experience.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Experience counts for something

- Neither the NBA nor the NFL allows rookie officials to work the post-season.
- An NFL official must have at least five years in the league to work the Superbowl.

MLB playoffs **Ethier goes yard**

NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Los Angeles' Andre Ethier hits a solo home run in the top of the first inning last night as the Dodgers battled the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 5 of the National League championship series.
For a complete game recap, visit metronews.ca/sports

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Sports in brief

MLS One team is in with a win, can still get there with a loss. Another needs to win or lose by two goals or fewer. Five teams have already clinched, three are out. Six could end up tied and the deciding factor could be goal differential, fewest disciplinary points, even a coin toss. Got all that? Seven months of jockeying has come down to one wild weekend in Major League Soccer. Seven teams, three playoff spots, eight games, more than 50 different scenarios to sort out the Laurel and Hardy-ish playoff possibilities. The simple equation is if Toronto wins and either Colorado or Dallas get less than a win, TFC is in the playoffs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Mike Weir looks for return to form at Frys.com Open

GOLF The Frys.com Open has camped at Grayhawk Golf Course until its home course in California is ready.

Mike Weir has heard good things about the event's future home at the Institute Golf Course in Morgan Hill, Calif. But after winning the inaugural Frys.com Open in 2007 and finishing in a fourth-place tie last year, Weir is happy the tournament has at least one more year in the desert.

"You still hate to see it leave here," Weir said yesterday. "I love coming here."

Two years ago, the native of Bright's Grove, Ont., joined dozens of Canadian fans for an impromptu toast outside the media centre after his one-stroke victory over Mark Hensby. Weir celebrated his first tour victory in three years — and he hasn't won since.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big money

- There's a $5-million purse, with the winner taking home $900,000.

Milan surprises Madrid; Manchester United, Chelsea win

SOCCER Big-spending Real Madrid slumped to a 3-2 home loss to AC Milan in the Champions League yesterday, while Manchester United and Chelsea registered their third straight wins to move closer to the knockout phase.

Pato's 88th-minute strike clinched the victory that saw Milan topple Madrid from the Group C summit on goal difference following the meeting of the European Cup's two most successful clubs.

Man United also left it late it against CSKA Moscow, with Antonio Valencia scoring in the 86th minute to maintain the English champions' perfect record in Group B at the scene of their triumph in the 2008 final.

Chelsea, which lost that Luzhniki Stadium final, coasted to a 4-0 victory over Atletico Madrid after narrow wins in its first two Group D matches.

At the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, Real Madrid — without injured world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo — made the perfect start when Raul Gonzalez seized on an error by Milan goalkeeper Dida to score after 19 minutes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANDRES KUDACKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AC Milan's Alessandro Nesta fights for the ball with Real Madrid's Esteban Granero yesterday during Milan's 3-2 win in Champions League action.

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Metro Homes

Before you paint
Home Hardware Stores Limited is calling all virtual decorators to visit the redesigned and interactive Beauti-Tone website, where they can visualize what different paint colours might look like in their home. Check out Home Designer on beauti-tone.ca.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

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But don't forget it there ...
Position this sneaky spider's movable legs any way you'd like ... preferably in a dark corner where no one will expect to see it. President's Choice Home. $8.99, pc.ca. EMMA YARDLEY/FOR METRO CANADA

Festive with a dash of **freaky**

EMMA YARDLEY
for Metro Canada

Ghost, goblins and ghoul decorations can turn your place from blah to boo, but keeping your Halloween decor simple can be just as effective.

"You can decorate in two ways," says Ann Marie Favot, design editor for Style at Home. "The scary Halloween way, with goblins and ghosts, or decorate just with a black and orange theme, nothing creepy."

If you're feeling crafty and you'd like to try the colour theme route, Favot suggests painting jack-o-lantern faces onto pumpkins with watered-down white glue and then sprinkling on black glitter.

"It's a little bit different. Last year, I got little pumpkins and blackened them with acrylic paint. Crafts have come to a whole different level. They're not longer only for people who are crafty but for people who want to do something fun."

By mixing in your own crafty creations with classic fall-themed décor you can stay away from cheesy while still creating that festive feeling.

Homes in **Style**

1. Let these curious dark metallic crows tea light holders create a mysterious mood. Tag/Candym Enterprises, $14, 1-800-263-3551.
2. Adopt your own pet pumpkin cat by popping one of your orange orbs onto this whimsical metal frame. Pier 1 Imports, $18, pier1.com.
3. Add a little light to this moody haunted birdhouse lantern. Tag/Candym Enterprises, $58, 1-800-263-3551.
4. Staub's La Cocotte pumpkin pot is perfect for preparing a seasonal stew while doubling as a stovetop decoration. Gourmet kitchen retailers across Canada, $310.
5. A twig wreath hanging on a front door is a classic autumn addition to your home's exterior. Canadian Tire, $19.99, 20 inches, canadiantire.ca.
6. Pretty as a pumpkin. That's how the saying goes, right? Pumpkin candles: Cinderella, $42; small, $35; six votives for $9. Pottery Barn, potterybarn.ca.
7. The beauty of the stylized orange and black forest pattern on the Voluspa mini fragrance diffuser is only second to its sweet scents of amber and cedar. Anthropologie, $24, anthropologie.ca.

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Fashion cut backs

Andy The-Anh chose to scale back his Toronto LG Fashion Week presentation by opting to showcase his creations in the showroom rather than on the main runway. The decision was driven by dollars. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Style

Twitter accessories

Twitter fanatics can now wear their Hashtag (or TwitterName) proudly with custom-designed accessories. Online shop Survival of the Hippest (survivalofthehippest.com) offers handcrafted sterling silver and gold necklaces, bracelets, anklets, keychains, and brooches that feature your personal Twitter IDs. Prices range from $49.95 US to $139.95 US. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Hip to be square

Buffalo checks, plaid, tartan: Embrace your inner lumberjack

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

The first rule of this seasons "plaid" trend is to keep in mind not all squares are the same.

"Checks are patterns of squares and plaid is a pattern of striped bands, mostly at right angles," explains fashion stylist Peter Papapetrou, who has worked with Hilary Duff, Dragonette, Jully Black and Javier Bardem. And when it comes to the difference between plaid and tartan, there really isn't one, at least not in North America — plaid is our preferred term. In Scotland, however, tartan denotes the pattern and plaid means a tartan blanket or over-the-shoulder cloth.

We're used to seeing plaid and buffalo checks in casual wear, maybe because of its strong association with folkloric lumberjack giant Paul Bunyan, our logging heritage and the Marlboro guy.

But it's been no stranger to international catwalks over the years (hello, Burberry); most recently it sauntered down runways at Marc by Marc Jacobs, Donna Karan, William Rast, Isaac Mizrahi, Stella McCartney, Balenciaga and more.

Above: Marc Jacobs spring 2010 collection illustrates the recent check trend. At a retail level, it seems we can't have too much of a square thing. Plaid and checks are everywhere, from shirts, to vests, to coats, to scarves, to bags and shoes. And underwear.

Men's American Eagle holiday boxer, $12.50. Available at ae.com

Men's Quagmire shirt, $69. Available at quagmiregolf.com.

Esprit coat, $169.50. Available at Esprit stores.

GAP ruffle vest, $75. Available at Gap stores.

Above: Roots Little Olivia Canadian Collection purse, $98. Available at Roots stores. Left: Doc Marten boots, $150. Available at softmoc.com.

Smythe red jacket, $595. Available at smytheles vestes.com.

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TORONTO Fashion Week
Afiya Francisco

Our style expert judges the runways at metronews.ca/blogs

Jonesing for a Bridget sequel
Renee Zellweger is baffled by reports she's preparing to reprise her role as Bridget Jones. She tells Usmagazine.com, "I get asked (about) that every single day and I don't know anything. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Together again
Justin Timberlake flew to Vancouver to see Jessica Biel to prove he still loves her. They were spotted in the city at a screening of Where the Wild Things Are on Tuesday night.
FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Joss Stone touches the soul

Joss Stone

Album: Colour Me Free
Label: EMI
Rating: ●●●●½

JOSS STONE EMERGED six years ago as almost a novelty act — a bare-footed 17-year-old English school girl with a mane of golden hair singing '60s R&B in an Aretha-like voice. Since then we've seen a wave of English retro waifs come and go. On Colour Me Free, Joss Stone finally steps out to put them in their place. Comparing Stone to Adele or Duffy is like comparing Gladys Knight to Lulu. It's hard to believe this album was recorded live off the floor at the club Joss's mum owns. It's got a sonic depth that you can reach in and caress, which is something you can usually only find on old Stax or Muscle Shoals LPs. Yet Stone manages to merge her '60s leanings with more contemporary sounds on songs like Could Have Been You and, with the help of rapper Nas, on Governmentalist. Still, this is a CD for her parents' generation. The oldsters will love her singing around Jeff Beck's Superstition-style riffing on Parallel Lines and her rough-housing with Raphael Saadiq on Big Ole Game.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Flight of the Conchords

Album: I Told You I Was Freaky
Label: Sub Pop/Warner
Rating: ●●●

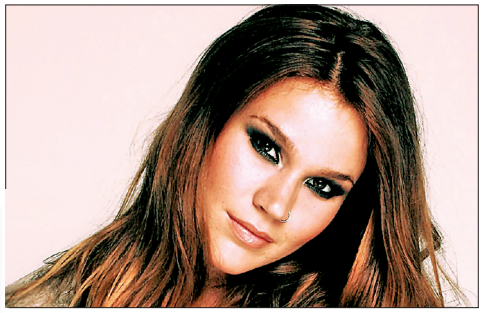
IF ANYONE DESERVED a Grammy last year it was Flight of the Conchords. The comedy duo's hilarious debut disc was easily one of the best records of the year. The followup will still elicit plenty of chuckles, but it falls short of its predecessor. Once again the record is filled with songs from the band's HBO television show, but overall the tracks don't have the same impact as what they did on season one. Still, the back-and-forth dialogue on We're In Love With a Sexy Lady, about a girl with a lazy eye, is fantastic.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Five For Fighting

Album: Slice
Label: Sony
Rating: ●●

THE PIANO MEN of past generations have gotten fatter and older. So it's important to have a few waiting in the wings to replace Elton and Billy Joel. John Ondrasik, the 44-year-old L.A. songwriter who works under the alias Five for Fighting, is doing his best to carry the mantle. You probably know him for hit Superman (it became one of the 9-11 anthems).



Colour Me Free is the latest album from British singer Joss Stone.

Slice is his fifth studio album and delivers time-worn themes from the mythical heartland. There's American Pie nostalgia (the title track), "a-better-world-because-of-you" patriotism (Note to the Unknown Soldier) and a song written for couples who actually have a favourite song (This Dance). Still, it's hard to dislike these well-crafted melodies, even when they're selling schmaltzy bromides like "hope will save the day" on the hopeless track Hope.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Ben Gibbard and Jay Farrar

Album: One Fast Move or I'm Gone: Music from Kerouac's Big Sur **Label:** Atlantic/Warner
Rating: ●●●●

WHILE DEATH CAB For Cutie is Ben Gibbard's main project, that doesn't mean the soft-voiced singer can't have a side gig that may be even better than his day job. He did that with the Postal Service, and now he teams with Jay Farrar of Son Volt and Uncle Tupelo fame on this beautiful lilting campfire album. The disc is the soundtrack to the movie One Fast Move or I'm Gone: Kerouac's Big Sur. The music is quiet, elegant and haunting while Kerouac's words — the lyrics are taken from Big Sur — have been given new life.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

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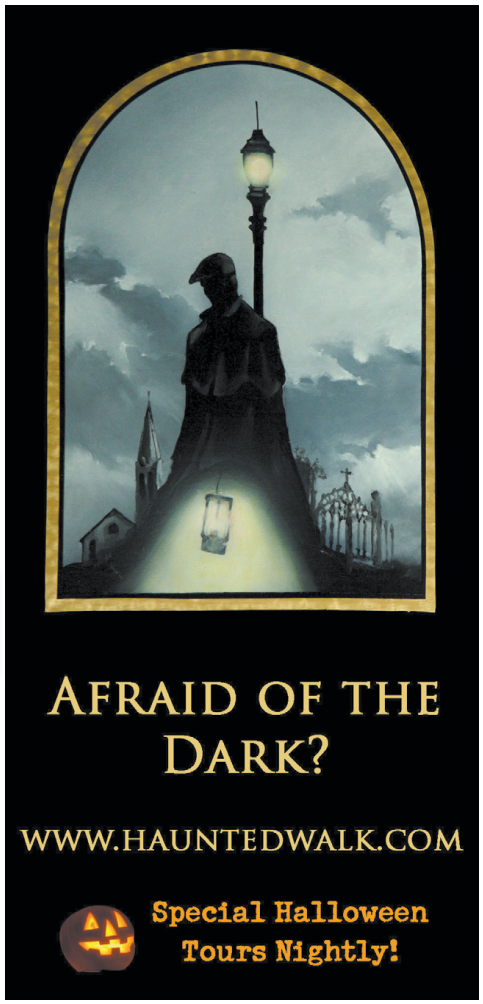


A Bachelor no more

Jason Mesnick, who infamously reversed his decision after the finale of The Bachelor to choose Molly Malaney instead of original choice Melissa Rycroft, has popped the question once again, asking Malaney to marry him in New Zealand. PEOPLE.COM

Perfection of the pop song

The Raveonettes are In and Out of Control

CAM LINDSAY
for Metro Canada

"We always set out to write the perfect pop song," confesses Sune Rose Wagner, the male half of Denmark's The Raveonettes.

Ever since they first appeared seven years ago using vicious degrees of feedback, Wagner and Sharin Foo have remained a vital and dependable source for perfect pop songs.

Beginning with 2002's mini album Whip It On, through four full-length albums and last year's series of EPs, on each release the duo have always managed to achieve their goal of reaching pop perfection.

In and Out of Control's lead single Last Dance is their finest bid yet. A sickly sweet prom night anthem with soaring harmonies and a candy coating instead of their usual noise-drenched sheen, it sounds like it was lifted right out of Sixteen Candles.

"Sometimes you succeed and that's the case with Last Dance. I think That Great Love Sound (from 2003's Chain Gang of Love) is a perfect pop song but the production is too harsh to win people over. The production on Last Dance is interesting because it melts '60s with '80s and sweetness with dark lyrics. It's a very different kind of pop song."

Actually, the band's fourth album is filled with "very different kinds of pop songs," which Wagner feels reflect the definition of the band.

"Each song was treated individually and as we were progressing I felt the need to keep writing and adding songs to make it even more varied." Sune Rose Wagner

"The Raveonettes stands for a lot of things," he explains. "Each song was treated individually and as we were progressing I felt the need to keep writing and adding songs to make it even more varied."

Brought to life using layers and layers of distortion, sweet, but deadly boy-girl vocals, driving drum machine rhythms and the odd synthesizer, from the titles alone, the album paints vivid portraits of rebellion, depravity and classic Hollywood romanticism.

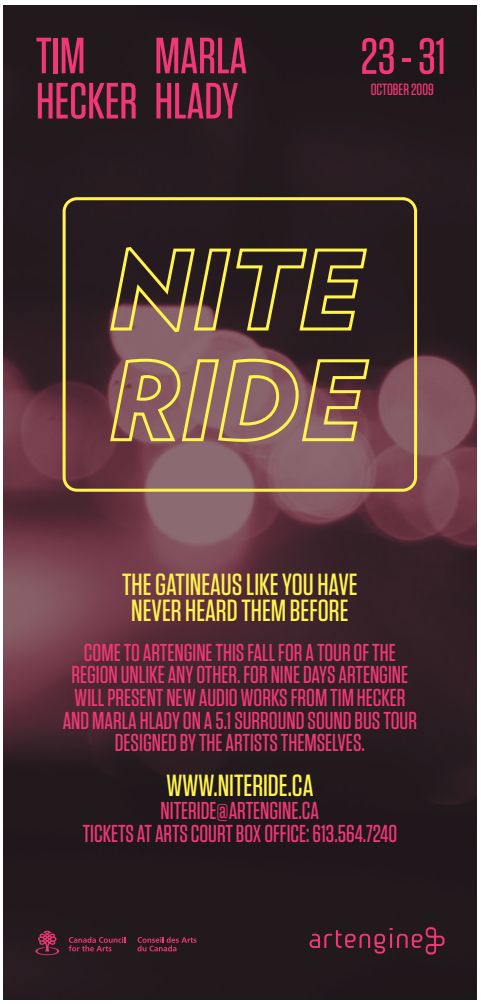
"The songs are about my life around me and my thoughts on various subjects such as violence, suicide, love and rape," Wagner explains.

In and Out of Control is the latest album from Denmark's The Raveonettes.

Yes, he said rape. And one look at In and Out of Control's track listing and songs like D.R.U.G.S. and Suicide pale next to one called Boys Who Rape (Should All Be Destroyed). What's funny is how such a brazen title became one of the catchiest, albeit most uncomfortable jingles of the year.

"I've always loathed rapists and think they're the lowest of the low," admits Wagner. "I thought we needed an up-tempo song so I wrote that song really fast and we made it sound frantic and crazy with the unusual beat. Sharin's voice was perfect for the song because of the sweetness in her voice singing some very confrontational words."

Adds Wagner, "I had an idea but people really picked up on it in a big way I must say. I like that, it's a fine song with a clear message."



Life with the Coens

'It was like being surprised every single day'

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Nobody could accuse Joel and Ethan Coen of being sellouts. After making the Oscar-winning film No Country for Old Men and last year's star-laced Burn After Reading, the sibling filmmaking duo has tackled an unlikely comedy.

Hollywood unknown Michael Stuhlbarg plays the lead in the Coen brothers' A Serious Man.

A Serious Man tells the story of feckless Larry Gopnik, a Jewish physics professor who suddenly finds his suburban life falling apart at the seams. Set in a Jewish community at the end of the '60s, The Coens not only avoided hiring a big name to play their lead role — they got a virtual unknown.

Michael Stuhlbarg may have been nominated for a Tony Award for his work in theatre but the little-known actor auditioned for three roles before landing the part of Gopnik.

"By the time I got the phone call that said I was actually going to play this part, it was almost like 10 months had gone by," said Stuhlbarg during a recent interview.

Having originally auditioned for a small role, "maybe five weeks before they were going to start shooting, (the Coens) said, 'We're going to put you out of your misery — you're playing Larry.' It was a long journey but a very fortuitous one."

A Serious Man opens in theatres tomorrow

That's an understatement. After all, not only will the movie introduce Stuhlbarg to mass moviegoing audiences, but he got the opportunity to watch the acclaimed filmmaking team working close-up.

"Because I was at the centre of the story, I got to be on set almost everyday," said Stuhlbarg. "It was like being surprised every single day; I think that that's the same journey that the character is going through as well."

While Stuhlbarg and his beleaguered character may have been surprised, the professional demeanor of the Coen Brothers certainly left no room for disappointment. As Stuhlbarg points out, the most shocking thing about the Coen Brothers was their absolute preparedness. "Their job is pretty much done for them when they show up," said Stuhlbarg.

Jackson's feeling cozy on the Fringe

AMBER RAY
for Metro Canada

GETTY IMAGES

Joshua Jackson stars on the Fox sci-fi hit Fringe.

TELEVISION In his second year on the Fox sci-fi hit Fringe, Joshua Jackson is feeling pretty much at home. Of course, it doesn't hurt that the filming of the series has moved to Vancouver, the town where he grew up.

"I know where to eat, I know where to do my laundry, I know where to go see a movie ... there's nothing in the city that feels unfamiliar to me other than the fact that there are, like, 15 new buildings every time I go home," the 31-year-old jokes.

Set relocation and evolving skylines aside, there are even more changes for Jackson's character, troubled genius Peter Bishop, this season. After the revelation of an alternate universe at the end of Season 1, Peter and his team of "fringe" science investigators (including his "mad scientist" dad, Walter, and FBI agent Olivia Dunham, the Scully to Peter's Mulder) are spending this year trying to prevent an invasion from that strange parallel dimension.

"Season 2 so far has been about that thing that happens at the end of Season 1 — this, 'Oh my God! They're actually coming from the other side and there is a war coming,'" Jackson says. "It is finally a call to duty for Peter. It is something that he believes in, which is not his natural way — in Season 1 (he) was a passive character. The information came to him and he reacted.

"Now he goes, 'Alright, fine — I'm going to fix this problem, I'm going to take this on.'"

Joshua Jackson says his character, Peter, has become more proactive in Season 2. But how has the parallel universe plot twist affected his counterparts? "Olivia (Anna Torv) becomes a less sure character. She is such a good, hard cop, so now that she's feeling her mortality, you take this rock solid character and you rattle her up a little bit," Jackson says.

Meanwhile, "Walter (John Noble) becomes more physically and emotionally incapable," Jackson adds, as though the bumbling brainiac weren't already off his rocker.

"Patricia Clarkson and Alexander Siddig bring untold layers of emotion!"
- Richard Ouzounian, THE TORONTO STAR

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- Vanessa Farquharson, THE NATIONAL POST

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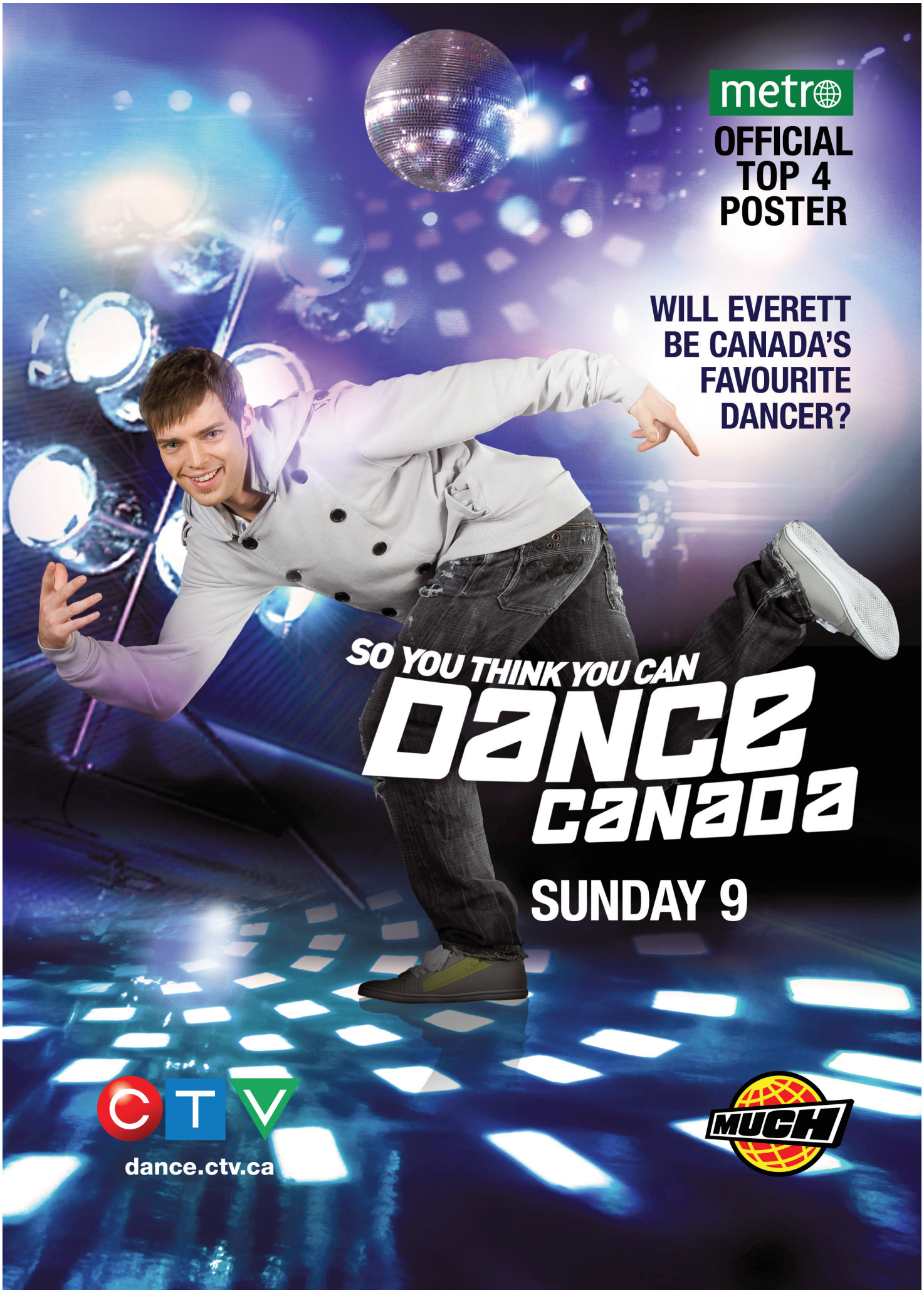

metro
OFFICIAL TOP 4 POSTER
WILL EVERETT BE CANADA'S FAVOURITE DANCER?
SO YOU THINK YOU CAN
DANCE
CANADA
SUNDAY 9
CTV
dance.ctv.ca
MUCH

Will Kim kopy Kourtney and Khloe?

Kim Kardashian has just watched her two sisters go through major life changes. So where does that leave the most famous Kardashian? "I always had a vision I'd be married with one kid by the time I'm 30," the 29-year-old tells Life & Style. **POPEATER.COM**

Freddie Highmore takes off

With Astro Boy role, young actor leads a boldface voiceover cast

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

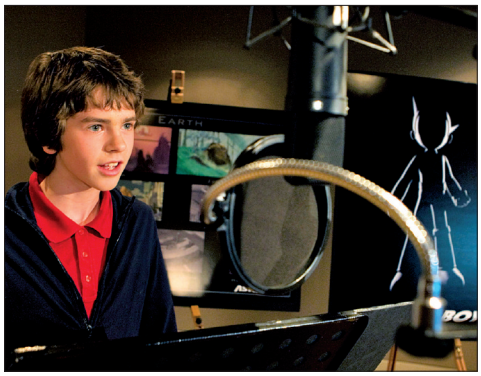
There are less awkward birthdays a person could have than Valentine's Day, but young British actor Freddie Highmore tries to not let it get to him.

"It's all right, actually," he says with a shy smile. "Maybe I'll be wanting a card from that special person, and you just keep getting them from your family, like, 'No, no, where's her card?' But it's been all right so far."

"All right so far" is an understatement when discussing the 17-year-old's film career. After an early start in films like Finding Neverland, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and August Rush, Highmore's latest has him voicing the title character in Astro Boy, based on the popular, decades-old Japanese comic.

Stepping into such well-known rocket boots was more than a little daunting, Highmore admits: "You want to get it right."

While admittedly not a comics fan, Highmore is no stranger to animation work, though he still finds the experience of working alone in a booth a bit odd.



Freddie Highmore voices the title character in Astro Boy.

"In the scenes when Astro Boy is flying around, I'd be — well, not flying, but jumping up and down and getting out of breath," Highmore remembers.

"The couple of technicians in there might think you're a little odd, but hopefully the millions of people who see the film will think it's all right in the end."

And though he's starring alongside an impressive list of co-stars, including Bill Nighy, Nicolas Cage and Kristen Bell, he can't exactly say he really worked with them.

"I met Kristen Bell when we came over for Comic Con, and she was very nice. But I hadn't met her until after we finished filming," he says. "But people have said we had great chemistry in the film."

Highmore is no stranger to famous co-stars, having gotten his start alongside the likes of Johnny Depp and Russell Crowe, and he's done his best to learn from them. "I'm not sure if there's a moment where Johnny Depp sat down and said, 'Try this in life' or whatever. But I think that you just pick up things," he says.

"I hadn't met (Kristen Bell) until after we finished filming. But people have said we had great chemistry in the film."
Freddie Highmore

With his 18th birthday a few months away and his profile rising, Highmore is hoping to avoid the usual pitfalls of Young Hollywood. "You see these young kid actors grow up and go off the rails. I haven't been caught up in any of that," he says. "We get such a detached view of it because we're quite a ways away in England."

The cast of NBC's Community.

Community mines college life for laughs

TELEVISION Chevy Chase, who co-stars in NBC's freshman sitcom Community, is as droll and deadpan in an interview as he was three decades ago delivering the news on Saturday Night Live or in a string of film roles including Caddyshack and Fletch.

Does the new show — about an oddball collection of community college students — summon memories of his Bard College days in New York?

"College? No," Chase says, mischief clearly afoot. "If anything, it brings up my prison stint."

On-camera quips are the work of series creator Dan Harmon and his writing staff, but Harmon knew the actors delivering them would be key. Joel McHale, Alison Brie, Gillian Jacobs, Ken Jeong and Danny Pudi co-star as members of a study group at the fictional Greendale school.

"Casting was 95 per cent of putting the show together," said Harmon. "This is an ensemble comedy. These are the choices that either make the show or sink it."

Community was inspired by the "emotional punch" of Harmon's experience at Glendale Community College, north of Los Angeles. Enrolling four years ago at age 32 to study Spanish with his girlfriend, he found himself drawn into the lives of fellow students as he helped them with classwork.

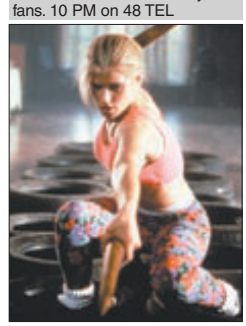
In the series, that's the fate of McHale's cocky Jeff, a would-be lawyer. The 66-year-old Chase, playing a man made wise by experience, was an unexpected bonus, Harmon said.

So far, critics have given Community high marks while viewers still are discovering it. Community drew five million viewers last week compared with eight million for NBC's The Office (and more than 14 million for CBS' Two and a Half Men), but is seeing growth in its advertiser-favoured age 18-to-49 audience. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
10/22/09 primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Super Structures (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Jury (Part 4 of 6) (N)		Masterworks (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Samoa (N)		The Office (N)	The Office	90210 "Unmasked" (N)		News Final
	-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	Infoman (SC)	Enquête (HDTV) (SC)		3600 secondes d'extase (SC)		Le Téléjournal Nouvelles. (SC)		La Zone (SC)
	209	342	6	CHRO	TMZ (N)	Hollywood	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)		Fringe		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		Comedy Now
	196	311	7	CTV	The Vampire Diaries		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV)		CTV News
	208	303	8	CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Doc Zone "Lifelines" (N)		The Border "Killer Debt"		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Community (N)	Parks-Recreat	The Office (N)	30 Rock	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	117	713	10	TVA	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		Dieu Merci (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Le Gentleman (N) (SC)		TVA nouvelles	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	-	-	11	QS	Taxi payant (N)	Rire et délire	Fringe (N) (SC)		Bob Gratton	South Park (N)	Le Mur (SC)	L'Attaque à 5 (N) (SC)	
	137	763	12	TFO	Panorama		Météo	Volt	*Le Trou* ★★★ (1960, Drame) Michel Constantin, Marc Michel.				Expédition
	-	362	13	CBS	The Insider (N)	Judge-Brown	Survivor: Samoa (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Mentalist (HDTV)		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Family Guy	The Office	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Small Places
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Community (N)	Parks-Recreat	30 Rock	30 Rock	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	218	345	18	CHCH	*Air Bud: Golden Receiver* ★ (1998, Comedy-Drama)				*Slaughterhouse Five* ★★ (1972, Science Fiction)				News at 11 (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	Action News	Entertainment	FlashForward (HDTV) (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) Private Practice (N)		News
	512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions		L'Heure politique					Revue	Période-quest.
	651	355	25	CTS	Little House on the Prairie		Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman		100 Huntley Street		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. (HDTV) (Live)						MLB Postgame	FOX 2 News
	-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	Whiz Quiz	Manor Born	Time Goes By	Murdoch Mysteries		Bonekickers		Charlie Rose
	205	312	104	CTV	The Vampire Diaries		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV)		CTV News
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Marketplace	CBC News: Tonight (N)		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		CNN Presents "Latino in America: Chasing the Dream"				Cooper 360
sports	406	417	27	net	Overtime	NHL Hockey Nashville Predators at Ottawa Senators. (HDTV) (Live)					MLB Baseball: Yankees at Angels		
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	NHL Hockey New York Islanders at Montreal Canadiens. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre		That's Hockey!	SportsCentre
	410	403	52	SCR	Score on NFL	Score Today	College Football Florida State at North Carolina. (Live)						Score Now
	411	457	56	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	59	SC	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	Pinks – All Out (HDTV)		Jacked!	Jacked!	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	554	544	48	TEL	Bugs Bunny	6teen: Dude of the		Majority Rules	Futurama	King of the Hill	*Buffy the Vampire Slayer* ★ (1992, Comedy)		
	557	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled! (N)	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	551	542	65	YTV	Drake & Josh	Family Biz	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline Proj
cable variety	570	580	29	MM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Wild 'n Out	Wild 'n Out	Storytellers		The Daily Fix
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds "Jones"		The First 48 "Memphis"		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Crime 360
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV)		TNA Wrestling (HDTV) (N)				Warrior
	521	560	34	TLC	American Chopper		American Chopper		American Chopper (N)		Heavy Haulers (N)		Amer. Chopper
	145	761	35	TV5	Horizons (SC)		Club social		Complément d'enquête				TV5 Le Journal
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Da Vinci's City Hall		The Best Years (DVS)		Saving Grace (HDTV) (N)		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	Storytellers	Camera	Bathroom Divas-Opera Star		*Inertia* ★★ (2001, Comedy-Drama) Jonas Chernick.				Law & Order
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Machines of Malice		Machines of Malice		MythBusters		Daily Planet
	575	583	43	CMT	Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Karaoke Star
	601	562	45	SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted		X-Weighted		X-Weighted "Jill"		ET Canada
	625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Hot Box	Jon Dore Show	Daily Show
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*The Weather Man* (2005, Comedy-Drama)		
	600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes Inspection		Renovation	Disaster DIY	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval		Eureka (N)		InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	53	MTV	The City	After	Disaster Date	Disaster Date	Fantasy Fact.	Nitro Circus (N)	Gone Too Far "Amy"		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	TV Made, Do It	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	522	506	55	HIS	Ice Road Truckers		Ancient Discoveries		Underworld Histories		Life After People (N)		History
	129	773	60	CD	Biographies "Salma Hayak"		Dossiers justice (HDTV)		Réscapes de la justice (HDTV)		Un tueur si proche (HDTV)		Vidéo
	261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote		On the Buses	'Allo, 'Allo!	*Cocoon: The Return* ★★ (1988, Fantasy) Don Ameche, Wilford Brimley.				
	602	567	62	W	Old Christine	Friends	Friends	Grocery Bag	Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	Divine Design	Don't Move
	269	350	70	APTN	Wapos Bay	By the Rapids	Over the Bolts	Moose TV	*Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life* ★★ (2003, Adventure)				
	621	527	71	TLK	Fashion	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	603	561	95	FN	Ricardo	Road Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Big Chef Takes on Little Chef		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Family

critics'corner

Buffy the Vampire Slayer
Valley girl-turned-bloodsucker nemesis Buffy Summers first saw the light of day in this 1992 comedy-horror movie starring Kristy Swanson, Donald Sutherland and Luke Perry, but it's little more than a very rough draft for screenwriter Joss Whedon, who would polish his material into the critically acclaimed TV series with Sarah Michelle Gellar not long afterward. This film, however, suffers from jarring shifts of tone, making it little more than a curio for "Buffy" fans. 10 PM on 48 TEL



Doc Zone
"Lifelines," the third installment of "Canada: Above and Beyond," the four-part celebration of a century of Canadian aviation, focuses on those who fly mercy missions, including airborne doctors, flying ambulances and military disaster-relief teams. In remote areas — and we certainly have plenty of those — being able to get a doctor in or a patient out by air can mean the difference between life and death. 8 PM on 8 CBC

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

Gold Medal Plates
Sample excellence at the Gold Medal Plates, where the city's premier chefs compete Oct. 28 at 6:00 p.m. Hilton Lac-Leamy, Gatineau to raise funds for athletes. Tickets start at $300. goldmedalplates.com/c_ottawa.html METRO NEWS SERVICES

Urban Foodie

●●●●● INSPIRED; ●●●● VERY GOOD; ●●● PALATABLE; ●● HO-HUM; ● NEVER AGAIN

A fresh catch still needs a fine chefs charm

SHARI GOODMAN
OttawaUrbanFoodie@gmail.com

Pelican Grill

1500 Bank St.
pelicanfisheryandgrill.com
613-526-0995

Signature Drink:
Wine and Beer
Signature Dish:
Clam Chowder
Rating: ●●½
Dinner & drinks for 2: $70

Filleting fish is a special skill, and I have great respect for fish mongers. However, when the filleting knife is back in its block, I want the charms of the chef to take over. Unfortunately, aside from the friendly wait staff, there wasn't quite enough charm at the Pelican Grill.

To start, I ordered Clam Chowder ($5) and enjoyed finding a clam shell hidden in my potage, but I didn't like the sand that came with it. The Calamari ($8) that my partner ordered arrived in a cardboard tray with a paper cup of slightly peppery ketchup dipping sauce. The Calamari needed more time in the deep fryer, and its "Old Bay" seasoning was bland.

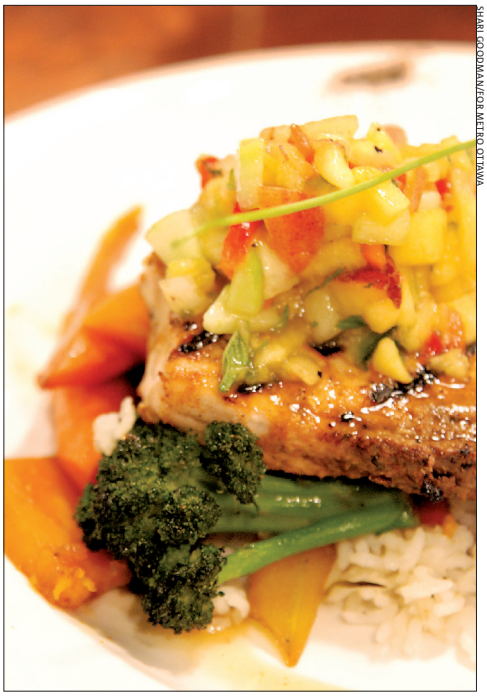
For the main, I had the Rainbow Trout with Mushroom Sauce ($21). You can't go wrong with a mushroom sauce, and this one was nicely seasoned. My partner had the Swordfish with Mango Salsa ($22). Dull is the word that bubbled up when we both tasted it.

For dessert we had the crème brûlée. Unfortunately the layer of hardened sugar covered a vanilla-tasting pudding rather than a traditional baked custard.

The Pelican Grill offers a variety of fresh fish in their well-stocked store, but don't rush to have them prepare it.

On the web

• Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes



SHARI GOODMAN/FOR METRO OTTAWA

Clockwise from top left: Rainbow Trout with Mushroom Sauce ($21), Swordfish with Mango Salsa ($22), Clam Chowder ($5).

Dining out

THE URBAN PEAR
A fine restaurant offering a menu that changes with the seasons. Chef Ben Baird is one of ten chefs competing at the Gold Medal Plates next Wednesday. Their popular Sunday brunch is served from 11 a.m, to 2 p.m. 151 Second Ave. 613-569-9305

NAVARRA
Chef René Rodriguez, another chef competing at the Gold Medal Plates next Wednesday, showcases foods of northern Spain and the Basque region, including an authentic tapas menu on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 10 p.m. 93 Murray St. 613-241-5500

In brief

TASTE WINE from Victoria, Australia, at a Winemaker Tasting and Dinner tomorrow hosted by the Australian Victoria Government at Restaurant International, Algonquin College from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m sommelierguild.com

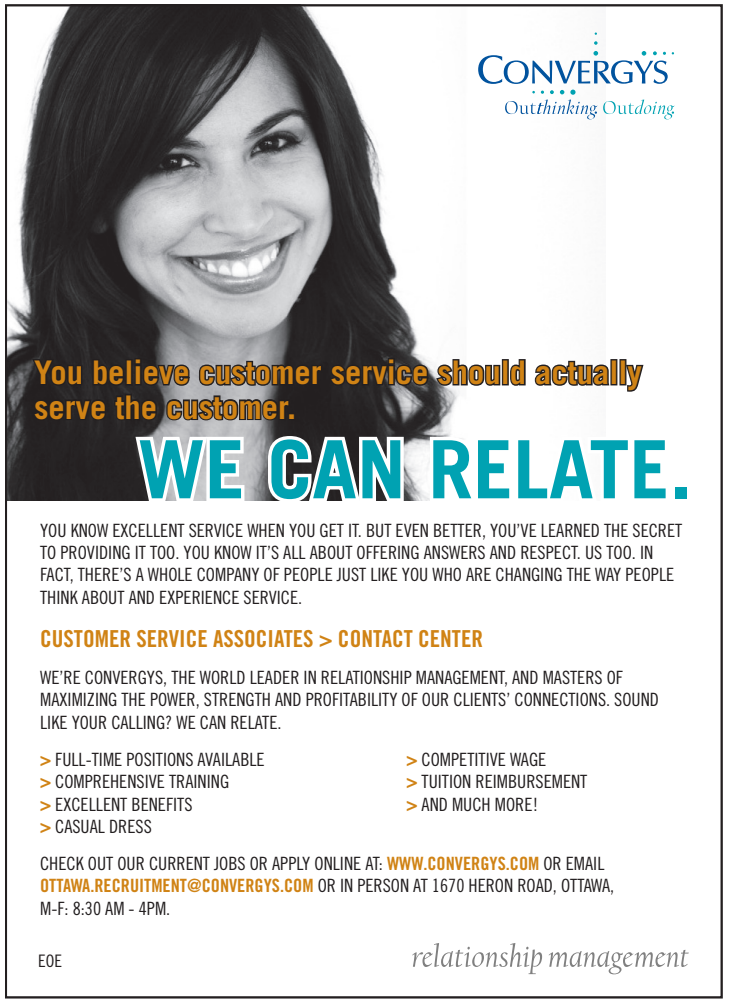
TASTE SCOTCH at DiVino Wine Studio (225 Preston St.) on Tuesday, Oct. 27, from 7 to 9 pm. See localwineevents.com and search for Ottawa.

TASTE BEER from around the world Wednesday, Oct. 28, hosted by Groovy Grapes Beer Expert Geoffrey Skeggs from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Glebe Community Centre. Tickets $35.

Global Peasant

• Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.

• Check out metronews.ca/globalpeasant to watch Diane dish out barley risotto with green peas and basil.



Hogan had a death wish

Hulk Hogan thought about killing himself when his marriage ended. The legendary wrestler got as far as picking up a gun to shoot himself when wife Linda Bollea filed for divorce he reveals in a new book. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

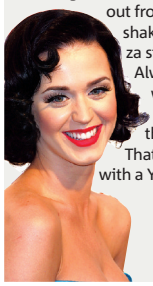
Celebrity tweets

LL Cool J isn't going to let the cold weather keep him down, Stephen Fry isn't ashamed of his musical preferences,and Katy Perry knows what she wants for her birthday.

• @llcoolj
In the depth of winter I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer.

• @stephenfry
I suppose I'd sound such an arse if I admitted that I was unreasonably cheered up by Karen Carpenter's singing this am. But I was. So there.

• @katyperry
Maybe I'll get lucky this week & get a birthday shout out from a shakey's pizza sign. Always wanted one of them. That's Katy with a Y pls :)



Mom OK's Brit's new love

HE'S THE ONE After a rocky romance with paparazzo Adnan Ghalib and a devastating marriage to Kevin Federline, Britney Spears has found love with agent Jason Trawick — and her mother, Lynne, thinks he is The One, Us Weekly reports in its latest issue.

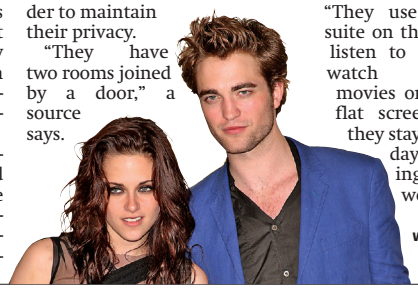
Lynne said, 'He's the kind of man you would dream of your daughter marrying. The kids love him, and he's stable,'" a friend tells Us Weekly. Trawick, 37, stood by Spears, 27, during her darkest moments (she was involuntarily committed twice to a psychiatric hospital in 2008 and lost custody of sons Sean, 4, and Jayden, 3, the year before).

"Most everyone else abandoned her, but Jason refused to be completely cut out of Britney's life," says a source.

Besides his quick wit and ability to make her laugh in any situation, sources tell Us Trawick accepts Spears — drama and all.

"She has been honest with Jason about what she's been through in a way that I don't think she's been with other people," says a pal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kristen, Robert shack up in hotel?



SUITE TALK Twilight co-stars Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson are reportedly living together while in Vancouver to film the latest in the popular franchise.

According to More magazine, the pair has rented out an entire floor of the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel — with each suite running $850 a night — in order to maintain their privacy.

"They have two rooms joined by a door," a source says.

"They use a third suite on the floor to listen to music or watch Blu-ray movies on a large, flat screen, when they stay in after a day's shooting or on weekends." METRO WORLD NEWS

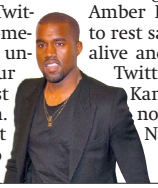
Relationship thorn in Rosie household

WORKING ON ISSUES Rosie O'Donnell has confirmed that she and partner Kelli Carpenter are on the rocks, usmagazine.com reports. In a new interview with USA Today, she says, "We're a family. We will remain a family forever. And we are working on our issues."

The 47-year-old O'Donnell — who has been suggesting a split on her blog — wouldn't confirm a National Enquirer report that Carpenter, 42, has moved out of their Nyack, NY, home and into Manhattan. (USA Today notes that Carpenter was not home during the interview.)

O'Donnell noted that the well-being of their four kids — Parker, 14, Chelsea, 12 and Blake, 9, and Vivienne (Vivi), 6 — is top priority. METRO NEWS SERVICES

RIP Kanye West tweets laid to rest



LIVE AND WELL "RIP Kanye West" was still the top trending topic on the micro-blogging site Twitter hours after someone made up an unscrupulous rumour that Kanye West died in a car crash. The Kanye West Dead hoax was also the top Google search in the U.S. early yesterday morning. West's girlfriend Amber Rose put rumours to rest saying the rapper is alive and well, writing on Twitter: "This 'RIP KanyeWest' topic is not funny and its NOT TRUE!" METRO NEWS SERVICES

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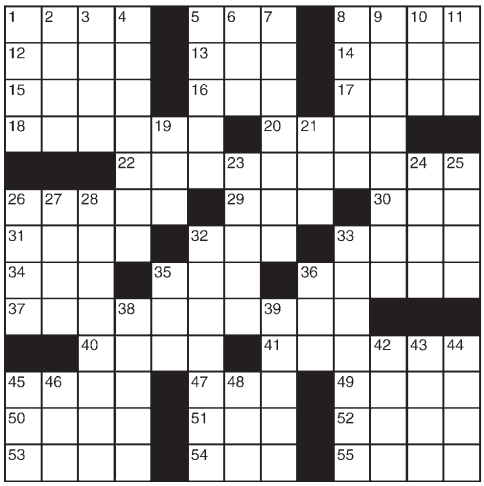
The Weather Network
TWN incorporates MSC data
Today Rain 90% 5°/ -2°
Friday Mainly sunny 4° / 1°
Saturday Rain 90% 11°/ 3°
TAKE THE WEATHER WITH YOU visit mobile.theweathernetwork.com

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Boutique
5 Suitcase
8 Unuttered "alas"
12 Lawrence Berra
13 Id counterpart
14 Dandling site
15 Dealer's foe
16 Scarlet
17 Misfortunes
18 Nativity setup
20 Get steamed up 22 E.T.'s venue
26 Grown-up
29 Churchill's gesture
30 Needle-fish
31 "And — bed": Pepys
32 Plaything
33 Mine, in part
34 Dead heat
35 Stir-fry pan
36 Clumsy
37 Nirvana, maybe
40 "Simon —"
41 Method
45 Use a wooden spoon
47 Vanna's cohort
49 Matador's foe
50 War, to Gen. Sherman
51 Altar affirmative
52 Once more, in the Ozarks
53 Simple
54 Neither mate
55 Poolroom triangle

DOWN

1 Harmonization
2 Frost
3 Shrek is one
4 Small flute
5 Jaunty chapeau
6 Time of your life?
7 Arthur of old TV
8 Cut corners
9 Collaborating (with)
10 Hairspray alternative
11 Guys
19 Shack
21 Exploit
23 Bring out
24 Kvetch
25 Formerly, formerly
26 Italian wine region
27 Slay
28 Knife and fork, e.g.
32 Tennis tactic
33 Low-rated, as a hotel or a movie
35 Distort
36 Unfriendly
38 Way before deadline
39 Nancy, the first woman in Parliament
42 Frat-party garb
43 Idle of Monty Python
44 Tony Shalhoub series
45 The woman
46 Afternoon affair
48 Commotion

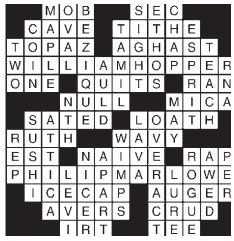
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	6		5		7		4	
		1	2		4	3		
8								6
		8		9		5		
3								8
		9		7		2		
6								4
		2	8		9	6		
	1		3		6		5	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



3	5	7	6	1	8	2	9	4
2	4	8	3	5	9	6	1	7
1	6	9	2	4	7	3	5	8
4	3	5	9	2	1	7	8	6
9	8	6	5	7	3	1	4	2
7	2	1	8	6	4	5	3	9
6	9	2	1	8	5	4	7	3
8	1	4	7	3	6	9	2	5
5	7	3	4	9	2	8	6	1

On the web

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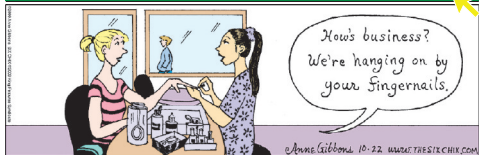

Metro Recipe of the Day

ALICIA MCAULEY PHOTO

Coconut Red Curry Chicken with Tomatoes

Submitted by Maria Nickel, Winnipeg

INGREDIENTS:

1 can (14 oz) coconut milk
1-2 tbsp brown sugar
1/2 cup of chicken or beef stock
1 tsp red curry paste (you can use more if you want the dish to be spicier)
2 tbsp fish sauce
1 pint of grape tomatoes, halved
1 can mushroom stems and pieces with juice
1 zucchini (medium size) chopped into small pieces
1 orange pepper (optional; you can also use red or yellow, medium sized)
3 chicken breasts, cut into 1/2-inch slices
2 tbsp cornstarch mixed with 4-6 tbsp. of cold water
2 cups of jasmine rice

PREPARATION:

1. In a two-quart saucepan, add the coconut milk, red curry paste, chicken stock, sugar, fish sauce and tomatoes and simmer over medium heat for eight minutes, stir constantly.
2. Cook jasmine rice as directed on the package.
3. While coconut mixture is simmering, add the chicken, peppers, mushrooms and zucchini and simmer for another 12 minutes or until the meat is cooked thoroughly.
4. Mix the cornstarch and water together and then add to the pot. Mix until the curry thickens. If it doesn't thicken, add more cornstarch and water to it.
5. Serve over jasmine rice.

SERVES 4
PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 35 MINUTES

20 minute SUPPER CLUB
20 Minute Supper Club helps you get dinner ready in a snap at **20minutesupperclub.com**. Visit 20minutesupperclub.com/metro to be entered to win a $50 President's Choice gift certificate!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Someone thinks you are the bee's knees and the best thing since sliced bread. And you are. But don't let flattery go to your head.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
There may be many chores you would like to avoid, but you can't, so quit your wishful thinking and get on with them.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Venus, planet of love, is transiting the most passionate area of your chart, so let those you are closest to emotionally know how you really feel.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
It will pay for you to be less assertive today. You don't need to prove yourself. You don't need to impress people.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
This is a day for enjoying yourself and socializing. Forget about work and money issues — there will be plenty of time to take care of them later.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Family and financial matters are under exceptionally good stars. You will know instinctively what you need to do to put things right.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Venus in your sign makes it easy for you to win others around to your way of thinking. That's good because as of tomorrow you may need them.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
The more you ask for this week the more you will get. And the more you get the more you will want.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Why so glum when every cosmic indicator suggests that good things are coming your way?

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Now is one of those times when even Capricorns must take certain things on trust. That applies especially to your career, an area in which you must move quickly.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Something will inspire you over the next few days. Something will seize your imagination and make you aware of how much more is possible.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You need to remind yourself today that most people in the world are just like you. But it may sometimes appear as if certain individuals are unreasonable.

TAKE A BREAK FROM WORK
Visit metronews.ca to watch
metrotube of the day

This day in history

OCT. 22, 362: The temple of Apollo at Daphne, outside of Antioch, is destroyed in a mysterious fire.
OCT. 22, 1836: Sam Houston is inaugurated as the first president of the Republic of Texas.
OCT. 22, 1883: The Metropolitan Opera House in New York City opens with a performance of Gounod's Faust.
OCT. 22, 1964: A parliamentary committee selects the design that will become the new official flag of Canada.
OCT. 22, 2008: India launches its first unmanned lunar mission, Chandrayaan-1.

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- Visit the College Information Program (CIP) with displays by many Ontario colleges and the Ontario College Application Service (OCAS)

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